recommendations, on April 29 and May 6.

It seems to have been the same at every other Asylum. Take but two more (related) examples, Dr. Spohn's "retirment" from the Penetang Asylum, and Dr. McCallum's transfer to the same institution. On November 30,1907, Dr. Sphon, Medical Superintendent of the Asylum for the Insnae, Penetanguishene, wrote to the Hon. W. J. Hanna, Provincial Secretary. In the first two (undated) pages, he explains that the second part is a "brief statement of the work done at this Asylum since I have been in charge." He also reminds the Provincial Secretary of the details of an earlier discussion at which one A.P. Campbell (Dr. Spohn's lawyer?) was present. According to Dr. Spohn these details included the Provincial Secretary's verbal agreement to give him $3500 upon retirment from the Asylum, plus $1750 for his thirty-two years as surgeon at the reformatory. The total comes to about $5000, which, Dr. Sphor points outs, was what Inspector Christie got when he retired.

The accompanying 10-page letter "justifies" this gratuity. Moreover, with its often rather craven and pleading tone, its slightly paranoid asides at political foes imaginary or real, it indicates the political climate in which it was written. It also indicates the ethical environment, since not once in its ten pages are patients mentioned, though it is clear that they did the physical labour, the building and farming which together comprise the sole basis and justification for Dr. Sphor's claim to such a fat "gratuity."

After five pages detailing such work, Dr. Spohn states his thesis, which is that he is not retiring but being unjustly removed, "because certain parties have been howling for my head since the change of Government." This unnamed enemy has schemed against and misrepresented Dr. Spohn to the Provincial Secretary. According to Dr. Spohn, his enemy, who will "stop at nothing," has boasted that he would seize the opportunity created by change of government and his own "great influence" in the same, and "see that my head was cut off." With an unnamed "Lieutenat," this foe has enlisted the townspeople to misrepresent the good doctor to the government, and intrigued to get their followers on the staff. The latter fabricate problems within the Asylum, which in turn become the basis of further misrepresentation.

Dr. Spohn concludes that he is the victim of a political conspiracy, all the more unjustly considering that, as he says, "I have taken no interest in politics in any shape of [sic] form since my appointment." He is especially incensed that he has been accused of spending too much time away from the Asylum operating a dredging business, while Dr. Ryan of Kingston is allowed to maintain a private practice, because he is "fortunately a Conservative." Dr. Sphon concludes that "different treatment is meted out to me, because forsooth -- I do not happen to be a Conservative."

The tone of the Hon. W.J. Hanna's reply of December 5, 1907 is best characterized as frigid. The details, Hanna asserts, were not "in so far as the amount is concerned, as you put it." Speaking, as he writes, "from memory," he insists that the amount he he had mentioned as "gratuity" was not $3500 but $2400 or 2600, based on the salary acutally paid. He also insists that he had stated at their meeting that anything beyond that amount, a year's cash salary, "would be a matter of argument." The matter would have to be rsolved by the Cabinet Counicl, when the contents of Dr. Spohn's letter would be given "proper consideration." The Provincial Secretary concludes rather wanly that "I did not give any assurance as to what the Council would do with regard to such excess amount."

There is every indication that Dr. Spohn was being eased or bought out by the governing party, and that he might have been misled as to the amount of the purchase.

On May 19, 1909, one Mrs. Webster wrote one Mr. Dargavel, MPP for Elgin, begging him to get rid of her boss, Dr. McCallum, Medical Superintendent of the London Asylum, "the blackest Grit that ever trod the earth." She claims that he is driving the staff mad, especially herself it sees: "Yesterday and to-day [sic] we are all almost insane ourselves .... we will all have to resign if something is not done." The mass resignation of the Conservative staff of an insane asylum, because they have been driven mad by the Liberal officers, poses an interesting medical problem.

Mrs. Webster seems to have joined the staff in some sort of clerical capacity; she complains that Dr. McCallum "will not allow me to control the mails" -- adding, incidentally, that "he could not treat a squaw worse than he treats the Assistant Matron and myself." The Liberal McCallum has made this good conservative woman's life a "hell on earth." Those good Tories, "the Hon. Mr. Hanna or Hon. Mr. Whitney had not the faintest idea what a brute they have here feeding at their board." If they did, she heavily implies, they would fire him immediately.

She adds a litany of reasons. That "he is hated like poison here," seems obvious enough already. That "the Conservatives cannot get at him here in the Constituency," basically because "he has nothing to do with any person around the twon or country," seems only sensible on his part. But